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A Long Ride, But One That's Well Worth It

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By [Anthony Cronin](#)

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Charles Androw says the reason he's stayed with one employer for nearly 45 years is rather simple.

"You've got to love your job," says the Preston resident, who since July 15, 1963, has worked for the Pepsi Bottling Group, first in downtown New London and for many years since at its Uncasville facility.

"I think what really keeps me going is the rivalry, for one," says the diehard Pepsi fan of the perennial slugfest between beverage titans Pepsi and Coke. "And," he quickly adds, "you really gotta like what you're doing."

The 63-year-old Androw apparently really likes what he's doing.

For years, he drove a truck for Pepsi — juggling soda distribution, product marketing and sales — all in a day's work. He delivered Pepsi to longtime accounts while enticing new accounts along his route to join the Pepsi generation. And he was very successful; today, he serves as an account manager for Pepsi with a distribution area that includes a big chunk of New London County.

Androw says he didn't mind the work as a Pepsi driver during his many years with the beverage company. "We were out in all types of weather," he explains. "And driving off the truck, we were always lifting those cases. It kept us in shape."

Androw's remarkable achievement of spending more than four decades with one employer was certainly noticed by Pepsi's corporate chiefs. He recently was honored — one of only 13 among Pepsi's global roster of 70,000 — for his nearly 45-year career. The self-effacing Androw says the best part of the company gala in his honor in Orlando, Fla., was the recognition that his wife, Deborah, received.

"If it wasn't for her, I don't think I would have lasted 44 years. Our job isn't exactly 8 to 4," he says, explaining that some deliveries could start early in the morning and last until after dark.

Androw has been married for 37 years and the couple has two grown children, a son and daughter. During his four decades-plus with Pepsi, he admits that the workplace has changed, and so has the product.

"When I first started working for Pepsi, we sold Pepsi and Teem (another soft drink) and we carried a local product called Nutmeg Beverages," he says. "And we always carried Schweppes products."

Today, Pepsi has more than 200 various products, flavors and sizes amid its global inventory of products.

As Androw begins his 45th year with the local Pepsi operation, he says there's no time to slow down — too much soda and beverages to sell to take it easy.

"Everybody keeps saying to me, 'When will you retire?' But there isn't a day that goes by that you don't get charged up about working here. It's just enjoyable."

Many things, obviously, have changed over the years, but Androw says change has never bothered him. In fact, he says it invigorates him.

"It really keeps you going," says the longtime Pepsi stalwart.

Anthony Cronin is The Day's business editor.

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